

## September 2002 Injury Prevention Newsletter

### Alaska News & Resources

1. Governor Knowles proclaims October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2002 as Walk Our Children to School Day.
2. Annual EMS Symposium
3. October is Fire Prevention Month in Alaska

### National News & Resources

4. The Home Safety Council releases a national report on home injuries
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1. Governor Knowles proclaims October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2002 as Walk Our Children to School Day.

Alaska joins many communities across the nation and internationally as International Children's Walk to School & National SAFE KIDS Walk This Way will be observed on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. In an effort to promote safe pedestrian habits school districts in Matanuska-Susitna Valley, Anchorage, Kenai, Fairbanks and Juneau, as well as the Alaska Injury Prevention Center, Alaska Area Native Services, Southcentral Foundation, 3M, FedEx and other Alaska public and private organizations all donate time and resources to the event.

For more information contact your local SAFE KIDS coordinator.

2. Alaska EMS Symposium 2002, November 13 -16

The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Alaska EMS Symposium information is on the Web. Access information about the registration, agenda, host site, banquets and travel arrangements on-line at [http://chems.alaska.gov/ems\\_symposium.htm](http://chems.alaska.gov/ems_symposium.htm)

The Injury Prevention Track includes sessions on winter safety, crash injury mechanisms, "The Force is With You" and "A Persuasive Moment."

3. October is Fire Prevention Month in Alaska

The Office of the Alaska State Fire Marshal expands Fire Prevention Week, October 6-12, 2002 to cover the entire month. Forty registered fire departments around the state have received kits from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), through the State Fire Marshal's, office to help them disperse fire prevention education in their communities. The theme this year of "Team Up for Fire Safety" encourages teamwork among firefighters "and the people with whom they live, work, play and worship with to be better prepared to prevent - and if necessary, survive - a home fire."

Fire safety education will emphasize home fire escape plans, working smoke alarms in residences and making homes less vulnerable to fire. Please contact your local fire department for more

information about Fire Prevention Week (or month) or, visit NFPA Online at [www.firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org) <<http://www.firepreventionweek.org>>.

**Remember:** When you change your clocks on Sunday, October 27, to check your smoke alarms and change the batteries if you use regular 9-volt batteries.

4. The Home Safety Council releases a national report on home injuries

In today's [www.reutershealth.com](http://www.reutershealth.com) <<http://www.reutershealth.com>> health information site is an article on a Home Safety Council report on injuries in the home. The Home Safety Council is estimating 20,000 deaths from home injuries each year with falls leading for cause. Read the article at the link above.

5. Study in Australia indicates that "group based exercise is a potent intervention for falls among older people"

Considering the information in item 4, read the abstract on a randomized factorial trial of falls prevention among older people living in their own homes done in Australia. You will find the abstract at [www.safetylit.org](http://www.safetylit.org) <<http://www.safetylit.org>> under the July 29, 2002 abstract listings or information for the full journal article in *BMJ* 2002; 325(7356): 128-132.

6. New CDC Report: Injuries and Illness Among New York City Fire Department Rescue Workers After Responding to the World Trade Center Attacks

Banauch G, McLaughlin M, Hirschhorn R, Corrigan M, Kelly K, Prezant D. *MMWR* 2002; 51(Special Issue): 1-5.

Full article, with tables, figures, and editorial comment, available on-line:  
<<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm51Pa1.htm>>

7. Residential fire related deaths and injuries among children: fireplay, smoke alarms, and prevention

Original article found at <<http://ip/bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/8/2/128>>. In addition there is an abstract under Residential Injuries in the September 23, 2002 listings at [www.safetylit.org](http://www.safetylit.org) <<http://www.safetylit.org>> on child resistant cigarette lighters.

8. Point - Counterpoint on Canadian helmet legislation

Correspondence about the effect of legislation on the use of bicycle helmets is presented in the September 2, 2002 SafetyLit abstracts found at [www.safetylit.org](http://www.safetylit.org) <<http://www.safetylit.org>>. What are your views?